

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/810,255

Examiner

Kim T. Nguyen

Applicant(s)

IOSILEVSKY, ALEX

Art Unit

3714

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment on 9/5/07.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-20 and 27-30. Now renumbered as 1-24.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Albert Keyack on 9/28/07.

The application has been amended as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as indicated in the enclosed attachment.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Prior arts of record do not disclose an electronic game table and a system for playing an electronic card game as set forth in claims 1, 19 and 27. In particular, prior arts of record do not disclose a single common display showing multiple community cards and betting information for each player, the common display located at the center of the table and horizontally mounted in the tabletop surface continuously displaying the community cards and betting information to all the players, along with the rest of the claimed limitations.

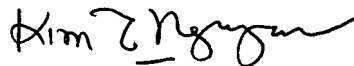
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2. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kim T. Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272-4441. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 8:30AM to 5:00PM ET.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Xuan Thai, can be reached on (571) 272-7147. The central official fax number is (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

kn
Date: September 30, 2007


Kim T. Nguyen
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3714

(Attachment)

1. (Currently Amended) An electronic game table for at least two players engaging in a completely electronic competitive game that uses both confidential cards and community cards comprising:

a table having a surface;

a plurality of individual player terminals arranged at or beneath the surface of said table, each of said individual player terminals comprising a terminal display and a data input device comprising a plurality of player activated electronic game function buttons including an action button and a betting button;

a central processing unit connected to the game function buttons of each of said individual player terminals for bi-directional data exchange with each of said individual player terminals, said central processing unit configured to cause the display of at least an electronic representation of confidential cards and a representation of ~~the status of the game~~ status on each of said terminal displays; and

a single common display showing multiple community cards and betting information for each player, the common display located at the center of the table and horizontally mounted in the tabletop surface continuously displaying said community cards and betting information to all the players ~~a single, centrally located common display configured to cause the display of an electronic representation of two or more different community cards, the common display being disposed in a position simultaneously visible to each and every of the players and connected to said central processing unit, said central processing unit containing a random combination generator.~~

2. (Original) The electronic game table of claim 1, wherein said central processing unit is provided with an outlet port for connection to external electronic means.

3. (Previously Presented) The electronic game table of claim 2, wherein said external electronic means are selected from the group consisting of a local area network, the Internet, and an Intranet.

4. (Previously Presented) The electronic game table of claim 1, wherein said plurality of player activated electronic game function buttons comprises at least control means for anteing the bets, control means for betting, control means for indicating a role of a player acting in the capacity of a dealer in a current round.

5. (Currently Amended) The electronic game table of claim 4, wherein said position of the single ~~centrally located monitor visible to the players~~ common display is a position selected from the group consisting of: a horizontal position on and flush with said table top, and a vertical position outside said table top.

6. (Original) The electronic game table of claim 5, wherein said central processing unit is provided with an outlet port for connection to external electronic means.

7. (Previously Presented) The electronic game table of claim 6, wherein said external electronic means are selected from the group consisting of a local area network, the Internet, and an Intranet.

8. (Previously Presented) The electronic game table of claim 1, wherein the electronic competitive game is a poker game, and wherein the individual terminals are spaced around the table for a number of players from two to ten.

9. (Original) The electronic game table of claim 8, wherein said central processing unit is provided with an outlet port for connection to external electronic means.

10. (Previously Presented) The electronic game table of claim 8, wherein said external electronic means are selected from the group consisting of a local area network, the Internet, and an Intranet.

11. (Currently Amended) The electronic game table of claim 8, wherein said data input means device comprises at least control means for anteing the bets, control means for betting, control means for indicating a role of a dealer in a current round.

12. (Currently Amended) The electronic game table of claim 11, wherein said position visible to said at least two players is a position selected from the group consisting ~~from~~ of: a position on said table top, and a position outside said table top.

13. (Original) The electronic game table of claim 12, wherein said central processing unit is provided with an outlet port for connection to external electronic means.

14. (Original) The electronic game table of claim 13, wherein said external electronic means are selected from the group consisting of a local area network, the Internet, and Intranet.

15. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein said central processing unit deals said confidential cards to each player terminal.

16. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the display of said confidential cards is obscured from players associated with other individual player terminals.

17. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein said confidential cards are only visible from the individual player terminal on which they were caused to be displayed

18. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, wherein each individual player terminal is configured to obscure the display of said confidential cards from other individual player terminals.

19. (Currently Amended) A system for playing an electronic card game, comprising:

(a) a table having surface and a plurality of player positions;

(b) a player display at or beneath the surface of the table corresponding to each player position, the player display configured to present virtual pocket cards to a player such that the display of the virtual pocket cards is obscured from other player positions;

(c) a central processing unit configured to deal virtual pocket cards to the player displays and at least two different community cards to the community display and cause the respective player displays to present the virtual pocket cards to a corresponding player, the central processing unit configured to receive input from the input mechanism related to the virtual pocket cards that are presented;

(e) (d) an input mechanism accessible from and associated with each of the player positions comprising a plurality of player activated electronic game function buttons connected to the central processing unit; and

(d) (e) a single common display showing multiple community cards and betting information for each player, the common display located at the center of the table and horizontally mounted in the surface continuously displaying said community cards and betting information to all the players a single central community display positioned in the table such that the central community display is simultaneously visible from each and every of the player positions; and

~~(e) a CPU configured to deal virtual pocket cards to the player displays and at least two different community cards to the community display and cause the respective player displays to present the virtual pocket cards to a corresponding player, the CPU configured to receive input from the input mechanism related to the presented virtual pocket cards.~~

20. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 19, wherein said virtual pocket cards displayed on each the player display are confidential.

Claims 21-26 have been cancelled.

27. (Currently Amended) A dealerless game table for playing an automated card game exclusively using images of cards and automated betting without chips, the game table comprising:

a horizontal tabletop having two or more player positions;

a supporting base;

player interface console terminals positioned within the tabletop at each of the player positions so that each player can observe all other players, the terminals each comprising:

- (a) a private screen to display pocket cards and betting information relevant only to one particular player;
- (b) a player in/out indicator;
- (c) several bet operation buttons on or adjacent the screen;
- (d) several action buttons on or adjacent the screen; and
- (e) a player operated automated payment device;

a single common display showing multiple community cards and betting information for each player, the common display located at the center of the table and horizontally mounted in the tabletop surface continuously displaying said community cards and betting information of all the players is visible to all the players; and

a table central processing unit connected to all the ~~player interfaces~~ console terminals and to the single common display, wherein the table central processing unit performs the one or more functions of a dealer and automatically conducts the play of the game based upon inputs from the player interface console terminals.

28. (Previously Presented) The dealerless game table of claim 27 wherein the payment device is a bill acceptor for accepting paper currency.

29. (Previously Presented) The dealerless game table of claim 27 wherein the payment device is a card reader for reading information from a card.

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30. (Currently Amended) The dealerless game table of claim ~~28~~ wherein the
9/30/07 ~~payment~~ card reader reads a magnetic strip.

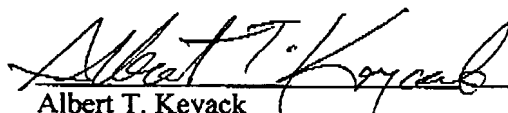
REMARKS

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended to the undersigned during the telephonic interview conducted on September 26, 2007. As suggested, claim 27 has been amended to place it in a condition for allowance, and the other independent claims have been similarly amended to present patentable subject matter and to correct typographical errors. Applicant gratefully acknowledges this indication of patentable subject matter.

Conclusion

For all these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the present application, upon entry of the amendments set forth above is now in a condition to be allowed. Notice to this effect is earnestly solicited.

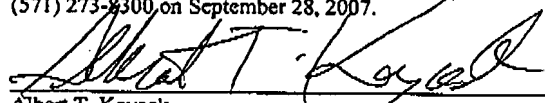
Respectfully submitted,



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Dated: September 28, 2007

I, Albert T. Keyack, Registration No. 32,906, hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted by facsimile to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 to facsimile number (571) 273-8300 on September 28, 2007.



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